



STATE OF TENNESSEE
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND INSURANCE
STATE FIRE MARSHAL'S OFFICE
FIRE SERVICE AND CODES ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY
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TO: Tennessee Fire Service

DATE: January 12, 2006

SUBJECT: Update on TFACA's Fire Service Training Program

The Tennessee Fire Service & Codes Enforcement Academy's (TFACA) Fire Service Program has a busy training calendar through the end of the fiscal year (June 2006). For the first half of this fiscal year the Fire Service Program is up 28% in student contact hours in comparison with this same period last year. We are projecting a significant increase in the student contact hours for this fiscal year through on-campus and field extension programs. Thank you for utilizing TFACA's Fire Service Program to meet your fire and emergency response training needs.

An interim schedule for next fiscal year's on-campus courses is enclosed. This interim schedule provides fire and emergency response organizations time for developing their in-house training schedules for the next fiscal year. In addition to on-campus programs, TFACA will continue providing training across the state by request through our Field Extension Program. TFACA is your state fire academy and we urge you to take advantage of our diverse range of programs designed to meet basic to advanced training needs. To register or inquire about available on-campus courses, contact TFACA Registrar Kay Hale at: 1-800-747-8868 or 931-294-4111. On-line registration is also available through the Academy's website. For inquiries or scheduling regarding field delivered training courses, please contact your local TFACA Regional Coordinator/Fire Instructor, or Regional Fire Supervisor Jerry Crews at 931-294-4153.

The 16th Annual Tennessee Weekend at the National Fire Academy, November 18 – 20, 2005, was a great success. There were 201 Firefighters from across the state in attendance. Our state's Weekend at the NFA is a collaborative effort of the TFACA, the TN Weekend Committee, and related state fire service organizations. Those organizations are the Tennessee Fire Chiefs Association, the Tennessee Firemen's Association, the Tennessee Public Fire & Life Safety Educators Association, and the Tennessee Advisory Committee on Arson. We greatly appreciate their cooperation and assistance in this educational event, and also the student scholarships many of these organizations provide to selected students attending the state weekend.

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security, Office of State and Local Government Coordination & Preparedness in conjunction with the Tennessee Fire Service & Codes Enforcement Academy will be conducting *Assistance to Firefighters 2006 Grant Workshops* across the state in February and March. These workshops will help your department in understanding the federal grants available to fire departments and how to complete the necessary paperwork to apply for them. In 2005 under the Assistance to Firefighters Grant Program, 134 Tennessee Fire Departments received grants with a state total of over \$15 million. This will provide a significant opportunity for these fire departments to improve

or increase their emergency response capabilities. I urge each department to send someone to one of the workshops to bring back this valuable information. More information on these workshops is enclosed.

The 8th *Annual Smoky Mountain Weekend* training event in Sevierville, TN is on-track for March 4 & 5, 2006. This educational weekend is a joint training opportunity hosted by the Sevier County Fire Chiefs' Association, Sevier County Fire Training Officers' Association and the TFACA. This is the largest single gathering of fire service personnel in the state and TFACA is proud to be a part of the great training opportunity. The TFACA Fire Service Staff and I look forward to seeing your department's representatives at this educational event.

The next *Recruit/Firefighter I Academy* is scheduled for March 20 through May 12, 2006. There are still available student openings in this course. This program provides a complete recruit firefighter training program that includes certification testing by the TN Commission on Firefighting at the end of the course. This course provides a great educational experience, as well as a potential career opportunity for those seeking full time employment in a Tennessee Fire Department.

A new event that is scheduled this year at the TFACA campus is "*Horsepower Weekend*" May 6 – 7, 2006. During this weekend a series of fire apparatus and pump operations courses will be offered to emphasize the safe and effective operation of fire engines to aerial apparatus. Along with the training opportunities there will be an antique fire apparatus display and competition on Saturday. More information on this unique event can be found on the TFACA website at: www.state.tn.us/commerce/sfm/tfaca/index.html , or you may contact us at the phone numbers listed below.

We appreciate the continuing support of the state's fire and codes organizations, and most importantly you, the fire service of the State of Tennessee. We look forward to continue working together to improve the fire service of Tennessee through education and training.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Fire Service Program Staff or me at 1-800-747-8868 or 931-294-4111.

Sincerely,

David E. Hedrick
Director Fire Service Programs

Enclosure